

Message Text

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72 (64)

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EG

SUBJECT: THE GOE ORGANIZES FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENTT

1. THE AGENCY FOR ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION IS STILL TRYING TO ESTABLISH ITS ROLE AND POSITION IN THE EGYPTIAN BUREAUCRACY. GIVEN THE SIZE AND ANTURE OF THE GOVERNMENTAL APPARATUS, THIS IS A FORMIDABLE TASK, AND THE EFFORT WAS NOT AIDED BY THE ABRUPT AND STILL PUZZLING DEPRTURE OF THE FIRST CHAIRMAN, SHERIF LUTFI.

2. THE NEW CHAIRMAN, TAHIR AMIN, WHO IS BOTH ENTHUSIASTIC AND OPTIMISTIC, SEES HIS AGENCY PERFORMING A CENTRAL COORDINATING ROLE RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO REPLACE OTHER AGENCIES, BRINGING INVESTORS TOETHER WITH THE RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE IN THE VARIOUS SECTORS TO FACILITATE MATTERS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDING THE GOE WITH AN OVERALL IDEA OF WHO IS THINKING OF DOIN WHAT FROM OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. PART OF THIS HE INTENDS TO ACCOMPLISH BY MEANS OF ESCORT OFFICERS THAT HIS AGENCY WILL PROVIDE TO EACH VISITOR, WHO WILL RECORD AND REPORT WHAT TRANSPIRES AT THE OTHER AGENCIES. HE ALSO ENVISAGES HIMSELF AS THE DESIGNATED PERSON FOR SIGNING SOME OF THE AGREEMENTS THAT EVENTUALLY WILL RESULT,

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ALTHOUGH HE DID STATE THAT IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THE MINISTER OF

INDUSTRY WISHED TO SIGN A GIVEN AGREEMENT, THERE WOULD OF COURSE BE NO OBJECTION.

3. COMMENT: AMIN IS AN EXTREMELY AFFABLE INDIVIDUAL, REPORTEDLY A PROTEGE OF FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HEGAZI, AND AN ECONOMIST (OR AN ACCOUNTANT, DEPENDING ON THE SOURCE), BUT HE DOES NOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF BEING THE HARD-DRIVING AND ENERGETIC PERSONALITY THE JOB PROBABLY REQUIRES. HE IS FURTHER HINDERED BY THE PROBLEMS OF ANY NEW AGENCY IN ANY GOVERNMENT, AND, AS HE POINTED OUT SEVERAL TIMES, THE LOCATION OF HIS OPERATION IN NASR CITY, SOME MILES FROM THE CENTER OF CAIRO, IS A REAL OBSTACLE TO EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE.

4. EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE ON HIS BEHALF HOWEVER AND ON JULY 1, HEGAZI ANNOUNCED THAT ALL ORGANIZATIONS ARE BEING ASKED TO PROVIDE THE AGENCY WITH A LIST OF PROJECTS TO BE CARRIED OUT JOINTLY WITH ARAB AND/OR FOREIGN CAPITAL. THE LIST TO BE IN ORDER OF PRIORITY. IT WILL BE A TASK OF SOME MAGNITUDE TO MELD THE SEPARATE LISTS INTO NATIONAL PRIORITIES BUT IF AMIN CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS HE WILL HAVE RENDERED A CONSIDERABLE SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY.

EILTS

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